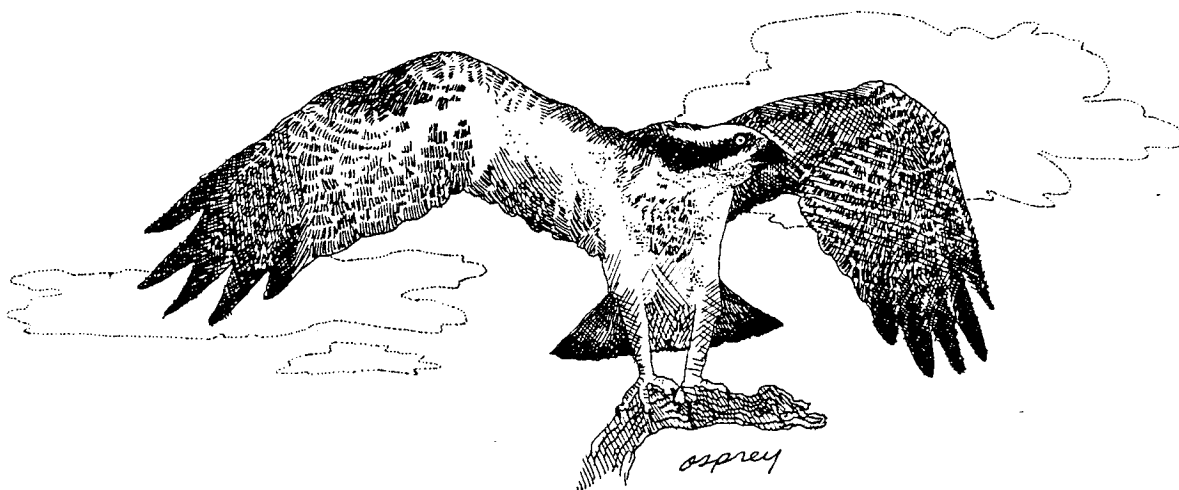


SURVEY OF NESTING OSPREY  
BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
AND  
FALSE CAPE STATE PARK

APRIL 5 - JULY 22, 1990

BY

REESE F. LUKEI, JR.



A survey of nesting Osprey (*Pandion Haliaeetus*) was conducted by Reese F. Lukei, Jr., U. S. Fish and Wildlife trapping and banding permit #21524-B expiring 7-31-92. The survey was conducted in the bay waters of Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (BBNWR) and False Cape State Park (FCSP). The survey was conducted by Lukei as a volunteer and part-time employee at BBNWR and under special use permit #04-18-90 issued by FCSP. The dates of the survey were April 5, 1990, May 9, 1990, June 14, 1990, and July 22, 1990. The survey was hampered by bad weather on several occasions and the failure of boating equipment resulting in the survey not being complete in all respects. Very few conclusions can be made from the survey this year because of these difficulties.

The purpose of the survey was to determine the number and location of nesting pairs of Osprey and the results of their egg laying activity. Additionally, the survey was to determine the condition of man-made nesting platforms and to make recommendations as to their repair and/or relocation.

False Cape natural tree sites #1 and 17 were destroyed by winter storms and were no longer standing. False Cape platform #5 was also blown down and no longer in place. All nesting sites in BBNWR are on man-made platforms. FCSP site #4 is in a tree, #2 is on the top of a water tank on Big Cedar Island, #7 is on the top of an old boat house at False Cape Landing, and #16 is on a duck blind. All other FCSP sites are man-made platforms.

The survey was conducted with the assistance of personnel from BBNWR, whose help and cooperation was very much appreciated. These people were Tony Leger, John Phillips, Gary Andres, Kathy DeGroot, and volunteer Cary Koronas. WAVY-TV reporter Margaret Douglas and cameramen accompanied us on May 9 and July 22. News clips of the survey and Osprey fledging were shown on Channel 10 evening news programs.

#### SURVEY DATES AND OBJECTIVES

April 5, 1990	Install predator guards on BBNWR sites #1, 7, 2. Determine sites occupied Became too windy to complete survey
May 9, 1990	Determine sites occupied and number of eggs on BBNWR sites. Became too windy to do survey in FCSP
June 14, 1990	Determine number of chicks and eggs on BBNWR sites. Again it became too windy to survey FCSP sites.
July 22, 1990	Determine number of chicks and band those still on nests.

## SURVEY RESULTS

### Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Maps #1 and #2)

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u># Eggs</u>	<u># Young Born</u>	<u># Fledged</u>	<u>Band #</u>	<u>Date Banded</u>
1	Yes	3	1	1	608-56717	7-22-90
2	Yes	3	2	2		
3	Yes	0				
4	Yes	3	0 *			
5	Yes	3	0 *			
7	Yes	1	0 *			
10	No					
11	Yes	2	0 *			
12	Yes	0				
13	No					
14	No					

\* - Storms during the summer destroyed nests

### False Cape State Park

Surveys were not completed in the Park. On every trip onto the bay to conduct the surveys high winds came up requiring our return to shore. On July 22, 1990 a band was placed on the leg of an immature Osprey on platform #3 on Little Cedar Island, Band #608-56719. There were two other immature Osprey on this platform that had already fledged.

### 1989 Recovery of Banded Osprey

A recovery was reported by an official from South Carolina Wildlife of an Osprey wearing band #608-56702 which had been banded at BBNWR site #4 on 6-28-89. The Osprey was found on the side of a road under construction near Marion, S C. The Osprey had been shot in the wing. The bird was taken to a zoo in Columbia, S C where it later died.

## SURVEY DETAIL BY NEST SITE

### Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge

#### Site #

- 1 This site is just across from the refuge office and is usually occupied. A predator guard was placed on the platform pole and as a result the pair of Osprey were able to successfully raise one chick. The immature Osprey was very reluctant to leave the nest and was still on the nest as of 9-19-90.
- 2 Two young fledged this year. One fledged in 1989. This nest platform is visible from the west dike road.
- 3 For the second year this nest was occupied but the Osprey did not produce any eggs.
- 4 This nest is usually productive. This year there were 3 eggs, but the nest was destroyed by a summer storm.
- 5 There were 3 eggs produced, but this nest was destroyed by a summer storm.
- 7 There was one egg produced, but this nest was destroyed by a summer storm. The platform is leaning and needs to be put upright.
- 10 This nest is surrounded by phragmites. The phragmites was cleared on April 5, 1990 and Osprey were observed on the platform on May 9. By June 14 the phragmites was platform high and the Osprey were gone.
- 11 There were 2 eggs produced, but this nest was destroyed by a summer storm.
- 12 Osprey were observed using this platform early in the season, but were not seen on the platform again. Not used in 1989.
- 13 This platform was not occupied in 1990 or 1989. Needs to be repaired.
- 14 This platform was moved to the tip of the inlet. It was observed to have Osprey early in the season but was not occupied.

### False Cape State Park

Survey not completed, therefore there are few details. Tree sites #1 and 17 were destroyed by winter storms. Osprey were observed in the area of site #1 and may have found another tree site nearby. Platform #5 was also destroyed and should be replaced since it was in past years an active site. The site #7 on the old boat house at False Cape Landing was occupied for the first time in several years.

At platform #3 on Little Cedar Island there were 3 young produced. On July 22 one of the young was banded. The other two young flew as the nest was approached. Television reporter Margaret Douglas was along and the cameraman captured one of the young leaving the nest for what appeared to be the first time. The scene was shown on the evening news later that day.

# BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Map #1

CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

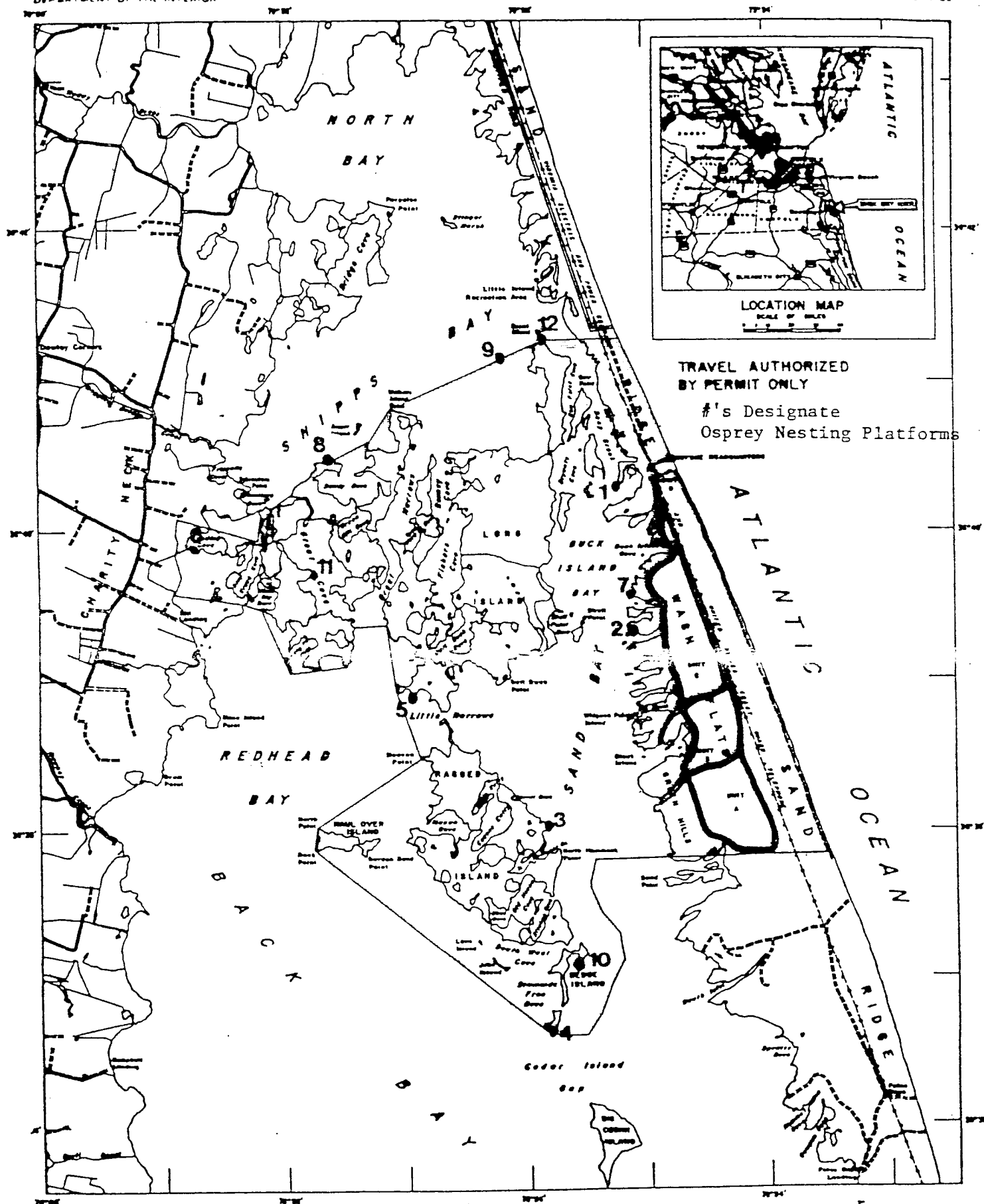


Figure 6. Location of current (12/87) osprey nesting platforms.

Scale 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Miles  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Feet

MEAN  
DECLINATION  
1984

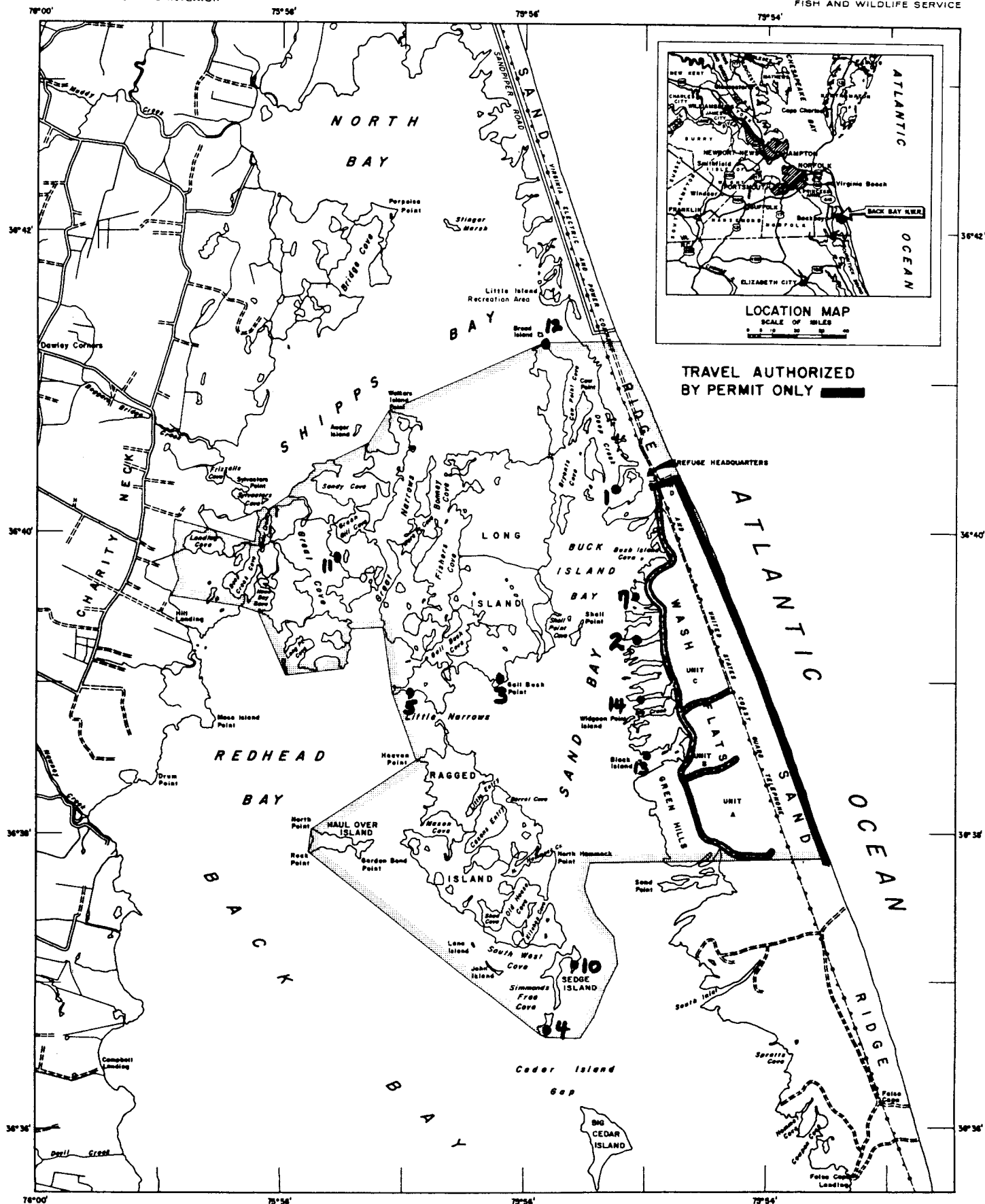
# BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Map #2

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



TRAVEL AUTHORIZED  
BY PERMIT ONLY

COMPILED IN THE BRANCH OF REALTY  
FROM SURVEYS BY U.S.G.S.

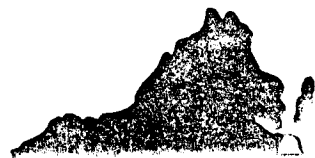
Location of Osprey platforms as of July 28, 1989

NEWTON CORNER, MASS. FEBRUARY 1973

Scale 0 2000 4000 6000 8000 10,000 FEET  
0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 1 1/2 2 MILES

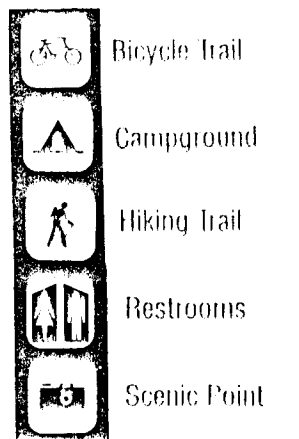
MEAN  
DECLINATION  
1964

5R VA 248



# FALSE CAPE STATE PARK

## LEGEND



--- Park Boundary



Mileage for False Cape State Park Trails  
 Barbour Hill Interpretive Trail 2.4 mi  
 Barbour Hill Beach Trail 7 mi  
 False Cape Landing Trail 6 mi  
 Wash Woods Beach Trail 8 mi  
 Dudley Island Trail 3 mi



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